# Masonic Sketches

of

## GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 49

## FORT UNION LODGE NO. 42

and

## GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 42

In

LEWISBURG

1796-1939

Compiled by

J. V. DOTSON

Lewisburg, W. Va.

1939

J. V. DOTSON

# FOREWORD

At a meeting of Greenbrier Lodge No. 42 some months ago, Sergt. C. C. Conyers said to me: "Jim, we have a very distinguished visitor with us to-night, Maj. R. E. Swab, of the U. S. Army, now Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the G. M. S., and I wish you would examine him. He is an exceptionally-bright Craftsman, so keep your eyes and ears open. I noticed him reading the different charters, perhaps, to be sure that he was was not in a clandestine Lodge."

The first thing the Major said to me, after we had retired to the private office of our Secretary, was something like this: "Mr. Dotson, out in the Tiler's apartment, I looked over the charters of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 and Fort Union Lodge No. 42. What became of these Lodges when the present one began to operate?"

You could have knocked me down with a feather. Why, I could no more answer him than I could have explained the truth or the untruth of why the moon—and SOME PEOPLE—were "made of green cheese." I knew absolutely nothing about which he was talking. Momentarily, I was dumfounded; but recovering from the shock, I held my head high, looked him straight in the eye, and ventured to say: "Major, there is some very interesting history in connection with your question that I have not the time to go into just now, as the Master would like you to be present when he opens Lodge. However, I shall esteem it a pleasure to go over it with you at some future time."

I then and there determined that no man would ever catch me again on that question; so I began to work, and continued to work day and night. The result of my labor, I now pass on to you—thanks to Bro. Swab.

The task of finding out the facts and digging up the material which have made it possible for me to give you this Masonic story, has been, by no means, an easy one.

My first step was to seek information from some of the oldest citizens in and around Lewisburg. I would repeatedly ask questions like these: How long did Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 exist? Where did it hold its meetings in the early days? How did it lose its name? Was its charter ever arrested? When was Fort Union Lodge No. 42 organized? How many years did it function? Who were some of its members? Why did some of the members of this Lodge withdraw from Greenbrier Lodge and form a Lodge of their own? In what places did these Lodges hold their meetings? How many years did we have two Masonic Lodges operating in Lewisburg at the same time? When was Greenbrier Lodge No. 42 formed? What became of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 and Fort Union Lodge No. 42 when Greenbrier Lodge No. 42 began to work under its present charter, and how long ago has that been? Who were its first officers, and how long ago has that been?

"The attentive ear" listened for "the sound of the instructive tongue", but alas! the only responses I ever heard were these: "I don't know." "You have me there." "I can't answer that question." So there I was. Give up, or go alone. Dig, search, fathom! The result: You will find these questions answered in the pages ahead.

Days and weeks were spent in reading Lodge minutes, to which I had access in the Masonic Temple, covering a period of some eighty-odd years.

Valuable information was also obtained from certain Deed Books in the Court House, which were placed at my disposal by our courteous and obliging Clerk, Paul C. Hogsett; and with the assistance of my dear

little friend, James Withrow, who turned the pages of those books like a wizard, I found the facts which were necessary to verify many of my statements.

I was eager to go any length, to exert every effort that would leave no doubt in my mind, or in the mind of any Thomas (?) who might read this booklet, that the sketches I was writing were absolutely authentic, correct, and accurate in every detail.

My progress in compiling these sketches was slow, difficult, tiresome; and however determined I may have been to forge on to the end, am afraid had not my heart been so entirely wrapped up in the work, I would have abandoned hope, and given up long ago.

I do not claim, in any sense of the word, to be a writer—and am aware that my critics will be many—but am giving you this history, in my own way, for what it is worth, and hope, after overlooking my faults, that by aid of the light I bring, you will see clearly many of the things that heretofore, perhaps, had been seen by you only "through a glass, darkly."

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my friends connected with the Greenbrier Independent for the invaluable help they have given me in the arrangement of this booklet; and also to express my appreciation of the kindness of a friend of many years, Brother Edw. L. Blake, Associate Editor of the West Virginia News, for the use, without charge, of many of the "cuts" that otherwise would have been unavailable to me.

Were I to dedicate this booklet, it would be to the memory of the Greenbrier Craftsmen in whose footprints we are journying to "that far distant country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

Fraternally — J. V. D.

ABOUT four generations ago, or one hundred and forty-three years, a few of the early settlers of this community met in the store of James W. Mathews in Lewisburg, and set on foot a movement to organize a Masonic Lodge in Greenbrier County.

A petition to the Grand Lodge of Virginia was drawn up and signed by the members of the Craft who were living here, and within the radius of twenty-five miles or more.

Capt. Alexander Welch and Dennis McLaughlin volunteered to take the petition to the proper authorities in Richmond.

Late in the fall of 1796 these men, true and tried, fearless and courageous, mounted their horses, and with the cheers of their fellow Craftsmen ringing in their ears, topped Waggoner's hill, and were off on the long journey that lay before them.

Bearing up patiently under the fatigue and hardships incident to traveling along trails unfamiliar to them—winding over hills and mountains steep and rugged—hearing, perhaps, the snarl of a catamount, or the growl of a bear, in crossing the Alleghenies, would, of course, have made them spur up a little, but nothing could weaken their determination to press on to the goal thead—fording streams and rivers, at some places, no doubt, swift and perilous, they happily reached the Mecca of their journey.

Looking up Grand Master Robt. Brooke and Nathaniel W. Price, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, they laid before these men the paper that embodied the desires and prayers of the brethren they had left behind.

The charter was granted Dec. 5th, with the title anl number, Greenbrier Lodge No. 49—designating as officers, James W. Mathews, W. M.; John Mathews, S. W., and John Brown, J. W.—the first meeting of which was held April 1st, 1797.

After resting for a few days, these men were on the old trail again, this time bound home and Lewisburg.

The day they reached here, there was a gathering at the Mathews store, where arrangements were made to have an elaborate celebration that night; and there must have been a "hot time in the old town that night" for there was a parade, headed by Welch and McLaughlin on their horses, followed by a banquet and speech galore.

Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 has, therefore, the distinction of being the first regularly-constituted Lodge west of the Allegheny mountains, or within the territorial limits of what is now

known as West Virginia.

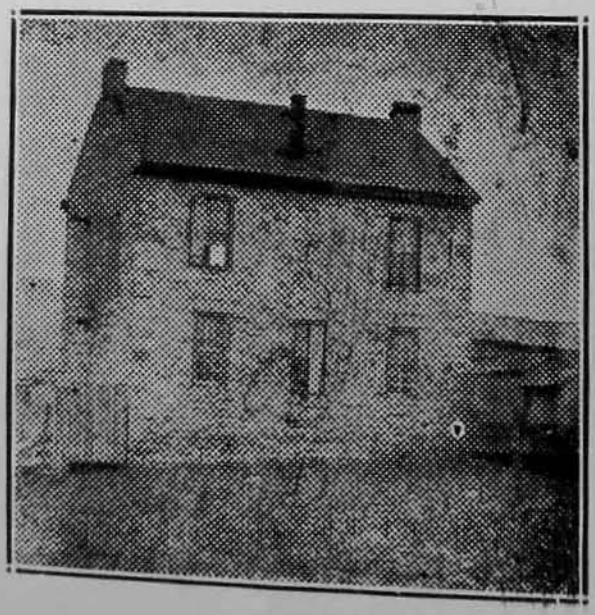
In the early days, and up into the 19th century, the Lodge held its meetings in private homes, generally in the large dining room in the brick house—now torn down—of Patrick Beirne on North Lee Street.

Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 functioned continuously for a period of 82 years, or until Fort Union Lodge No. 42 consolidated with it in 1878—thus giving birth to Greenbrier Lodge No. 42, which has come down through the years unchanged, and we venture to say that there is not a Mason who lived here at that time who has not been called by the Supreme Grand Master to pass on to the Great Beyond.

"There's a world where all are equal—
We are hurrying toward it fast—
We shall meet upon the Level there,
When the gates of Death are past;
We shall stand before the Orient,
And our Master will be there
To try the blocks we offer
By His unerring Square."

On December 31st, 1852, the trustees of Greenbrier Lodge bought from C. M. Weir, Thomas and Mason Mathews the "Old-Stone-Lodge" property, situated on the parcel of land on which the Chrysler garage now stands, and which, for many years, had been used by the Lodge for its place of meeting.

**The Old Stone Lodge**



**First Masonic Hall in Lewisburg**

In the Spring of 1869, the Lodge sold this property to the Board of Education of the township of Lewisburg to be used

as a schoolhouse for the colored children of this community.

In 1858 Greenbrier Lodge bought from H. H. Harrison, Andrew Beirne and B. C. Caldwell the brick building on West Main Street, which has since been known as the Masonic Hall. It was erected by F. M. Frazier during the closing days of the 18th century, and was used about sixty-one years by The Supreme Court of Virginia for its library, offices and place of holding court in Greenbrier County.

Immediately after the "Battle of Lewisburg" (1862) the old Courtroom, being on the ground floor, was used for many months as a hospital for the Confederate soldiers who were wounded in that memorable fight.

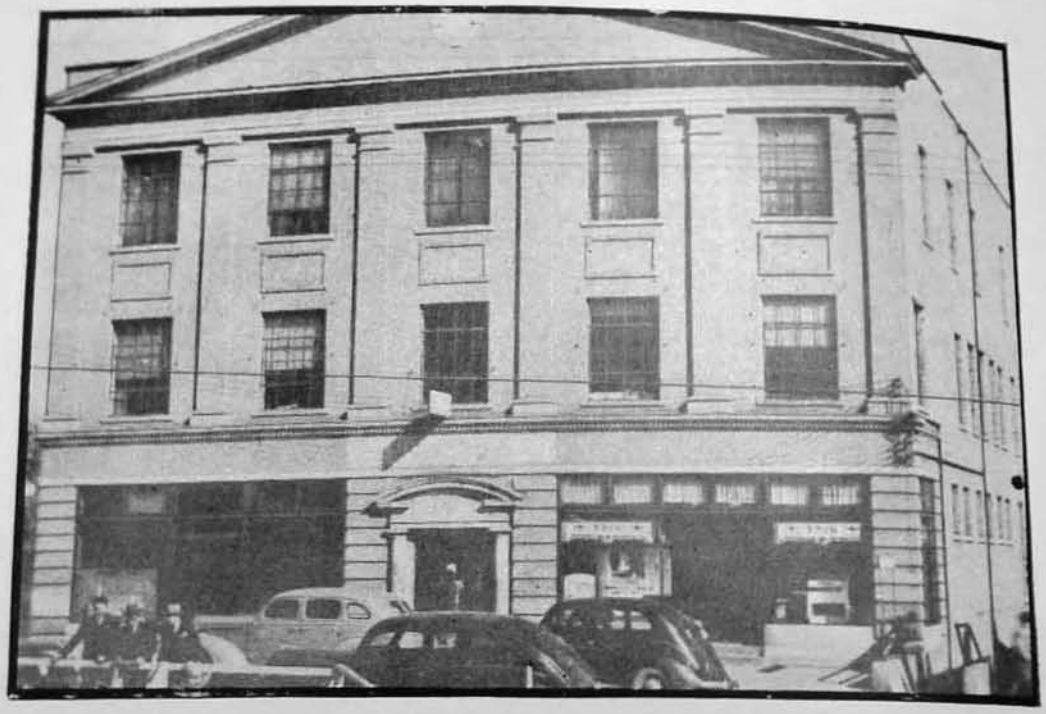
**Masonic Hall — 1799**

By way of parenthesis, this building was purposly located just across the street from the old "Frazier Tavern", which is still standing, but having been most attractively remodeled is now occupied as the residence of Dr. French W. Thompson, President of Greenbrier College, which, under his efficient management, has grown into one of the most popular and well-equipped seats of learning south of the Mason and Dixon Line.

As soon as repairs and alterations could be made, necessary to make this building a suitable place in which to hold its meetings, the Lodge moved to its new quarters, and continued to

operate there until 1917, when the trustees sold this property to E. W. Sydenstricker.

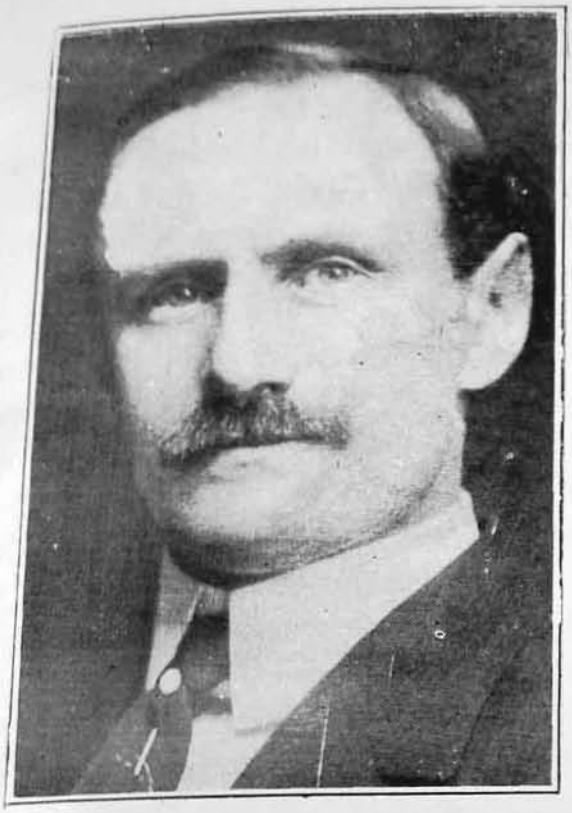
From thence, the Lodge moved to rooms over the Lewisburg Drug Store, which it occupied until 1926, when it moved to its new home in the Masonic Temple.



**Masonic Temple — 1925**

West Virginia had no sooner gained her statehood (1863) than a movement was made to organize and put in operation a Grand Lodge of her own. This, however, was not accomplished until 1864 when, in the city of Wheeling, Dr. William J. Bates was elected our first Most Worshipful Grand Master, and Dr. Thomas L. Logan, Grand Secretary.

After certain difficulties and misunderstandings between the Grand Lodge of Virginia and the Grand Lodge of West Virginia had been satisfactorily adjusted, the Grand Lodge of Virginia, in 1868, extended Masonic recognition to the Grand Lodge of West Virginia. At the same time, it recommended to its subordinate Lodges, within the jurisdiction of this state, that they transfer their connection to the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, calling attention to a resolution that had recently been passed at its Annual Communication to the effect that thereafter it would grant no more charters for the formation of new Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of West



W. E. Nelson

Wm. N. Jasper

Virginia.

In the meantime, however, early in the summer of '68, an application, signed by Maj. John W. Harris, Dr. C. N. Austin, A. C. Snyder, Robert F. Dennis and others, had been made to Bro. William Terry, Grand Master of the Granl Lodge of Virginia, for a Dispensation to assemble and work as a Regular Lodge in the town of Lewisburg.

On July 21st, by virtue of this Dispensation having been granted, and on that day received in Lewisburg, Fort Union Lodge U. D. was called to order by Worshipful Master John W. Harris, with the following officers: C. N. Austin, S. W., F. C. Burdette, J. W., W. B. White, Treas., A. C. Snyder, Sec., S. C. Beard, S. D., John Davis Arbuckle, J. D., and John H. Wetzel, S. and Tiler.

This Lodge was in operation for ten years, or until it consolidated with Greenbrier No. 49 in 1878.

The war between the States had come to an end three years before the members of Fort Union Lodge had broken off their connection with Greenbrier Lodge. It left the country in a confused and discorded condition.

Many of the men who at the call of their country and in obedience to their convictions of duty left firesides abounding in comforts and joys to campfires superabounding in privations and sorrow, had returned to their homes—cherishing, no doubt, the memory of many a comrade whom they had seen fall on the field of battle—to find their wives and children in want and distress; their places of business closed; their fields where corn and wheat once waved in plenty laid waste by neglect and the devestations of war; fields that were furrowed by cannon ball, shot and shell, while the peaceful plowshare lay hidden in the barn. Weeds and briars the only crop.

The picture was one of chaos, despair, desolation! Money was scarce; a days' work hard to find; the flourbin was empty, and but little meal in the barrel.

How well I remember when a boy at my mother's knee of listening to the stories she would tell me, with tears in her eyes, of the hardships through which they had passed, and the struggles they were still having to make ends meet. Many were the times I was sent to Bell's store on the corner for a nickle's worth of brown sugar, or fifteen cents' worth of flour or meal. Hard times? Yes. "Times that tried men's souls!"

Men were discouraged, downhearted, spirits broken; un-

rest was evident among members of the Craft, no doubt, one cause of which was their inability to meet Lodge dues, and the dread of suspension which would necessarily follow.

First one, and then another, and another would be dropped from the roll, or suspended, until a time when they could meet their indebtedness to the Lodge, and then, if they so desired, make application for reinstatement. My grandfather, St. Clair Johnston, was one of them, my father another, and many others who were likewise dealt with from time to time.

These men loved their Lodge, and the thought of being excluded from its meetings was hard to bear, but they could not help themselves. They knew the Order could not function without income, much of which was from the payment of dues, but in this, they were unable to do their part.

The real spirit of Masonry, however, was shown in the leniency the Lodge had with its delinquents. Time for settlement would be extended month after month, but to no avail. So the day of reckoning had come. The execution of a law under which the Lodge was working could no longer be ignored, and action was taken. The hammer fell!

"The mills of the gods grind slow,
But they grind exceeding fine."

When the organization of Fort Union Lodge was first formed, it was composed of members who had withdrawn from, or had been demitted by, Greenbrier Lodge.

It is the belief of some that the separation of members of Fort Union Lodge from Greenbrier was the result of an ill-feeling between the brethren who had been sympathizers with the North and those who had been in sympathy with the South; but the records do not show this, nor are any facts borne out that would justify such conclusion. Why, think! The two Lodges held their meetings, on different nights, in the same Hall each bearing one-half of all expenses. When either Lodge held a meeting there were always present visiting brethren from the other Lodge, and this fine feeling of brotherhood was manifested up to the time of their consolidation.

Fort Union Lodge severed its connection with the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1869, and was granted a charter by the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, Nov. 10th, the same year.

Greenbrier Lodge dissolved its relation with the Grand

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Greenbrier Lodge dissolved its relation with the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1876, and an application for member-

ship in the Grand Lodge of West Virginia was granted with the assurance that with its endorsement on the charter the transfer would permit Greenbrier to retain its original name and number.

Ten years had passed since the members of these Lodges had separated from each other.

The condition of the country had improved; more money was in circulation; bank deposits were moving forward, and the advent of a new day crystalizing; the sun shone brighter; business and industry were on the comeback; every one was happy in the smiles of goodwill and fellowship; the Lodges were working smoothly and in harmony with each other; the members suspended in the years gone by were back in the fold full of happiness, ambition, and the opportunity to live and enjoy the blessings of a free and reunited nation.

How propitious the time for THESE LODGES to reunite, and work hand in hand as in the days when all was well between them!

This desire and longing had been dsicussed by, and between, and among the members of the Order for months and months. The opportune time had come. So now:

Early in November, 1877, the two Lodges adopted resolutions, the purpose of which was to devise plans whereby a union of these Lodges could be effectively made.

A joint committee, representing respectively Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 and Fort Union Lodge No. 42, was appointed by Bro. John G. Cox, composed of W. P. Foster and Dr. S. H. Austin of Greenbrier Lodge, and Maj. John W. Harris and Judge J. M. McWhorter of Fort Union Lodge. The committee was instructed to work out plans for the formation of a union of these Lodges, empowered to decide on a name and number for the new Lodge, and also present the names of three brethren as charter members. Decision: Title and number, Greenbrier Lodge No. 42. Charter members, Joel McPherson, Jno. G. Cox and Jno. W. Arbuckle.

Just here, it is interesting to note, that the hardest part of the committee's work was to decide on a name and number for the New Lodge. The representatives of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 declared emphatically that they would not give up the word "Greenbrier". Likewise, those representing Fort Union Lodge No. 42 just as stubbornly declared that they would not surrender the number "42". Deadlocked! Finally, the breth-

ren agreed on a compromise, whereby they would take the NAME of one, and the NUMBER of the other and christen the united Lodges "Greenbrier Lodge No. 42". The hand-clasp of Masonic fellowship cemented the decision, and tho sixty-one years have rolled around since that decision was made, it stands to-day like Jackson's vision of a stone wall.

At the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of West Virginia, held November 14th, 1877, in Martinsburg, the Lodge was willing to grant a charter to the New Lodge with the understanding that Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 and Fort Union Lodge No. 42 consent to consolidate as Greenbrier Lodge No. 42. This agreement, however, having already been made and signed by the representatives of the two Lodges, was given to the Grand Master. The charter was issued December 4th, 1877.

"Hands round, ye faithful Craftsmen,
In the bright, fraternal chain;
We part upon the Square below,
To meet in Heaven again.
Oh, what words of precious meaning
Those words Masonic are—
We meet upon the Level
And we part upon the Square."

The last meeting of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 was held in the Masonic Hall on the evening of Nov. 10, 1877, with Jno. G. Cox, W. M., Jas. M. Cunningham, S. W., William Grow, J. W., W. P. Foster, S. D., William Stalnaker, J. D., Jas. Cox, Treas., A. C. Ligget, Sec., and Jno. H. Wetzel, S. & Tiler.

The last meeting of Fort Union Lodge No. 42 was held in the Masonic Hall Nov. 5th, 1877—Jno. W. Arbuckle, W. M., Robt. F. Dennis, S. W., A. C. Snyder, J. W., M. B. White, Treas., J. M. McWhorter, Sec., J. W. A. Ford, S. D., J. A. Larew, J. D., and D. W. Ayres, S. & Tiler.

# A FEW MEMBERS OF GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 49 PRIOR TO 1845

Alexander Welch
Mathew Arbuckle
Jas. Arbuckle
Francis Ludington
Anthony Bowen
St. Clair Johnston
Hugh McCleary
Jas. Ludington
Wm. McDowell
Jno. D. Littlepage
Jno. S. Johnston

Wm. Handley
Joe Harmon
Dennis McLaughlin
Jno. White
Sam Winall
Jno. Campbell
Ballard Smith
H. C. Cabell
O. P. Sydenstricker
Jno. H. Hess
Patrick Beirne
David K. Spotts

D. W. Ayres
J. D. Foglesong
Price Johnson

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PAST MASTERS

Jas. L. Anderson
Wm. C. Venable
Jno H. Wetzel, Sr.
Wm. Cary
Thos. Creigh
Jas. Remley

# OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 49 — 1863

JOEL McPHERSON ..... Master
WILLIAM P. FOSTER ..... S. Warden
ARCH W. FOLK ..... J. Warden
F. M. FRAZIER ..... Treasurer
JOHN G. COX ..... Secretary
C. A. STUART ..... S. Deacon
RICHARD THOMAS ..... J. Deacon
REV. WM. FISHER ..... Chaplain
JOHN H. WETZEL, Sr. ..... S. and Tiler

## PAST MASTERS

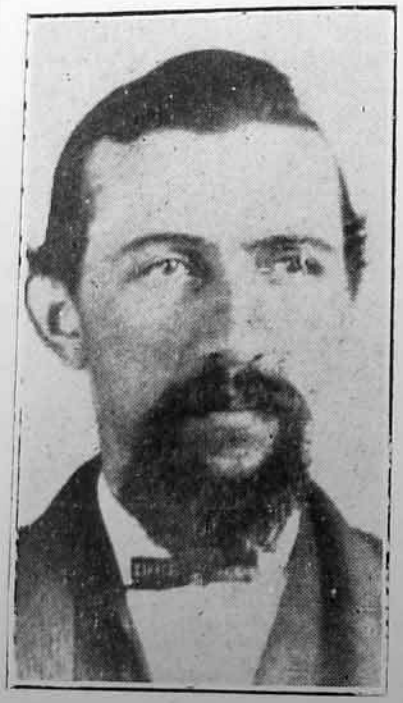
Joel McPherson
John H. Copeland
John H. Wetzel, Sr.
Henry Stuart
D. C. B. Caldwell
Thomas L. Feamster
Wm. R. Stuart, Sr.
S. S. Thompson
James Cox
J. H. D. Johnson

## MEMBERS

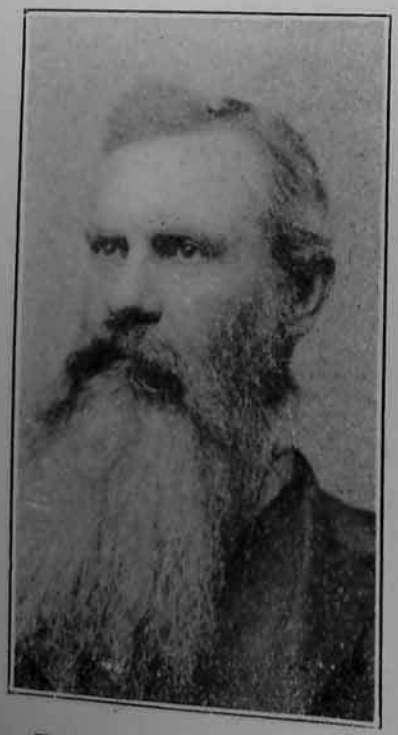
George Alderson
Richard Ankram
A. B. Budd
Wm. L. Barksdale
Stm'l C. Beard
Patrick Beirne
F. C. Burdett
Abraham Bright
George W. Buster
Conrad Burgess
J. W. Branham
Wm. F. Bahlman
Wm. Blessing
Thomas P. Bowen
Robert B. Bourn
J. A. Blaker
N. P. Barton
Oscar Callison
Madison Callison
John B. Calwell
Thomas Creigh
Alex. M. Cooper
John Creigh
Martin Crum
H. B. Craig
George S. Chilton
A. F. Cook
Cornelius Cochlin
A. W. G. Davis
R. F. Dennis
R. R. Dickson
A. J. Dotson
John P. Donaldson
Ambrose C. Dunn
Floyd Estill
Joseph L. Fry
John M. Furguson
John A. Hawver
H. H. Harrison
C. R. Hines
H. F. Hunter
John A. Hunter
George Hunter
Reuben Hurley
Jacob Hoover
N. C. Hendrick
George W. Hill
S. D. Humphreys
R. P. Lake
John E. Lewis
Richard Laidley
James S. Lemon
Alexis Martin
J. J. Moorman
R. B. Moorman
George McKendree
Patrick McCleary
John H. McPherson
John C. McDonald
James W. McDowell
S. D. Moore
J. W. Mitchell
R. W. McClanahan
Z. F. Morris
Josiah Osborne
M. V. Peers
John M. Price
Wm. H. H. Peck
C. Rosenquist
C. A. Rupert
J. C. Rabbe
Noyes Rand
Thomas A. Roberts
R. Sammons
Edward Smith
Randolph Stalnaker
J. W. Stalnaker
Wm. H. Shields
P. S. E. Sixeas
W. S. Summers
A. Schilling
Wm. R. Stuart, Jr.
M. L. Smiley
B. F. Sampson
D. E. Stalnaker
John Toothman
Francis Tyree
M. Tabler
James H. Vandiver
David Watts
Wm. Wells
M. B. White
P. B. Wetherhead
L. F. Watts
L. A. Wetzel
Richard Woodram
R. C. Williams
Wm. J. Zimmerman

Col. Joel McPherson

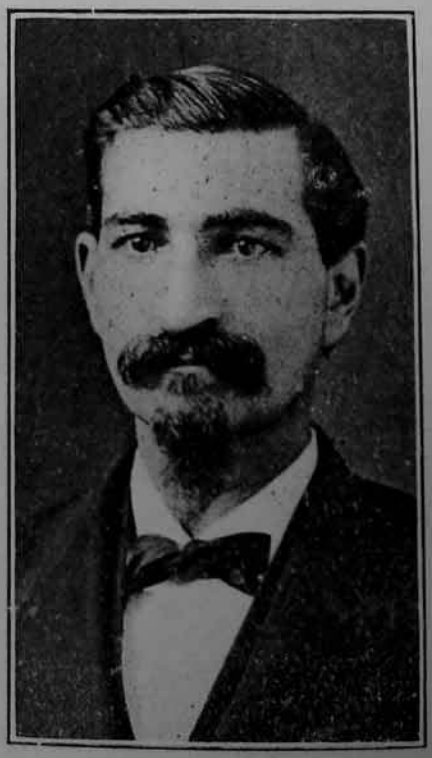
Wm. P. Foster



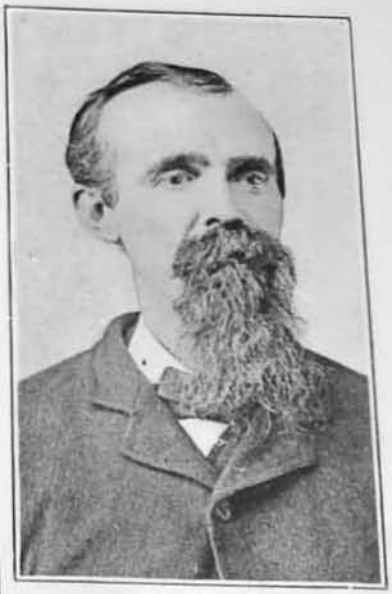
Jno. G. Cox
(Past Sec.)



Dr. Sam'l H. Austin

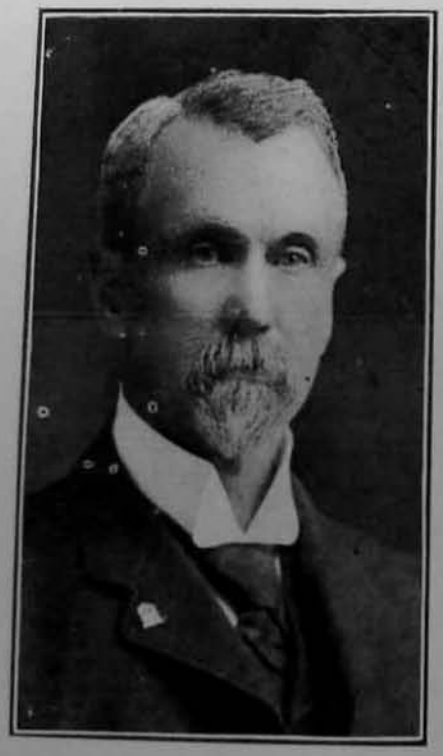


Maj. Wm. H. Shields

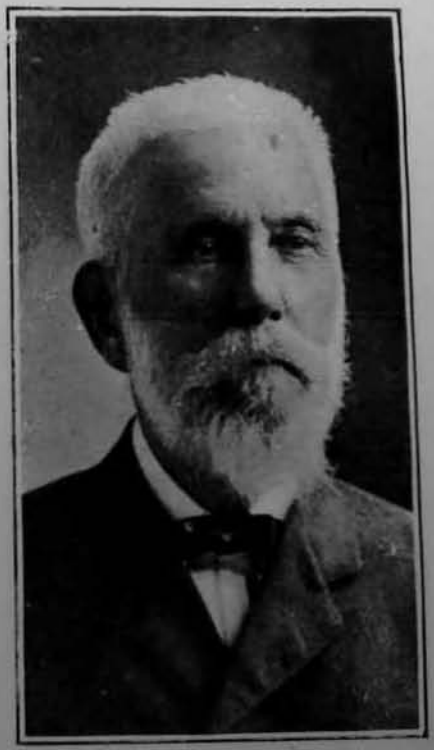


J. Wash McDowell

A. J. Dotson



Jas. M. Cunningham
(Past Treas.)



Jno. M. Price

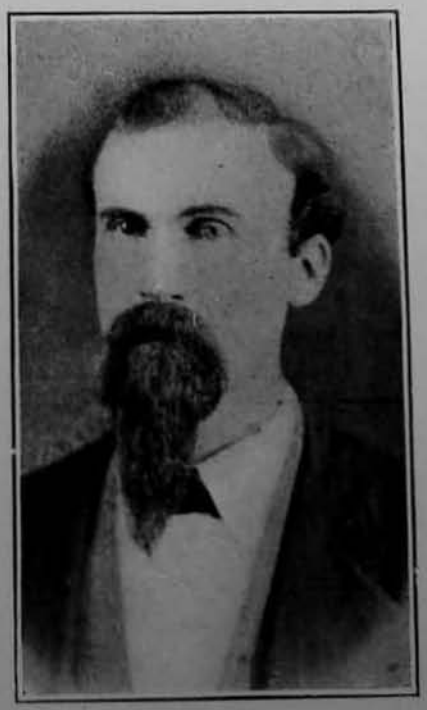
Dr. E. F. Raymond

Dr. J. H. Deshons

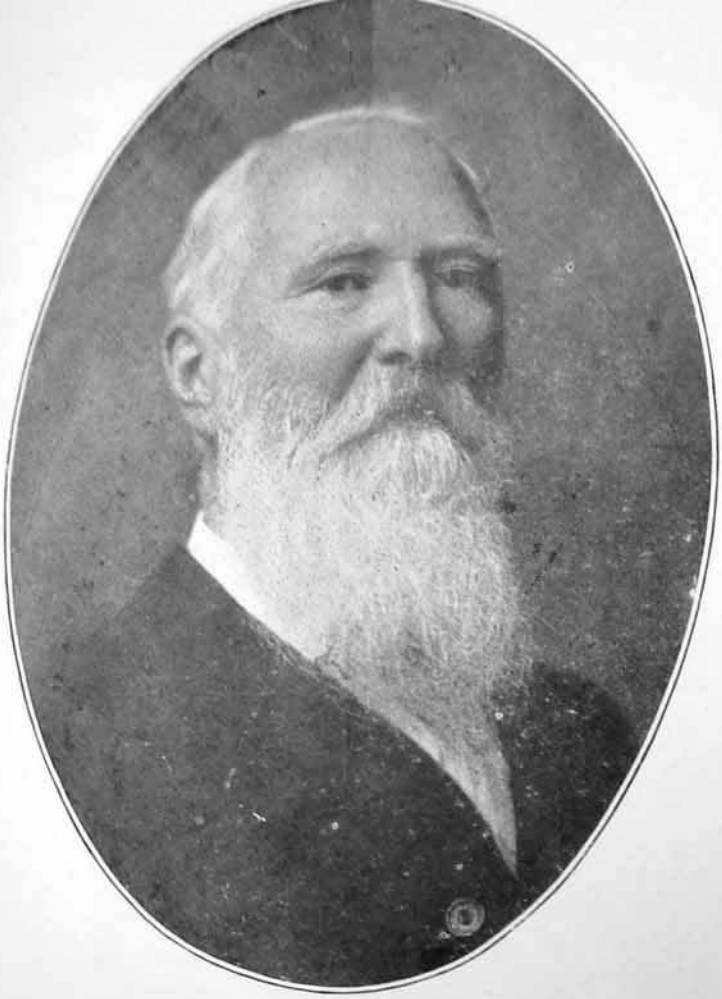
Dr. Wm. H. McClung

Wm. H. Cackley

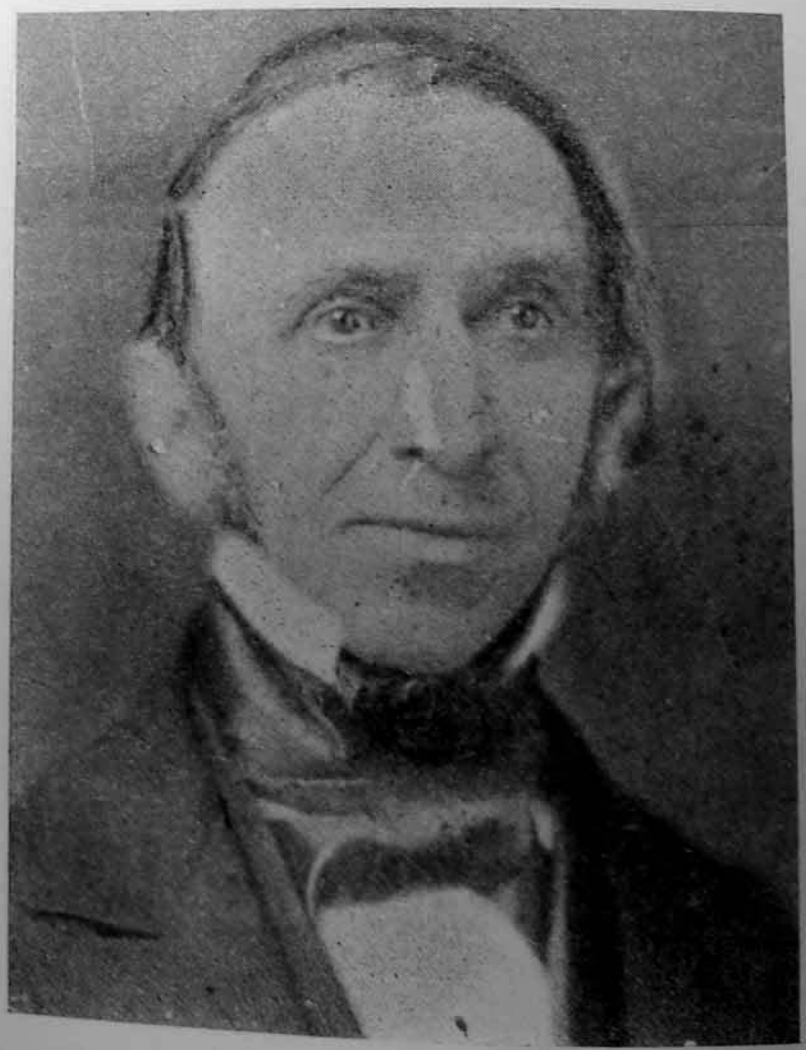
Randolph K. Stalnaker



J. R. Woodard



Capt. John G. Lobban



Dr. Thomas Creigh

## OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF FORT UNION LODGE NO. 42 — 1869

JOHN W. HARRIS ..... W. Master
CHAS. N. AUSTIN ..... S. Warden
F. C. BURDETTE ..... J. Warden
M. B. WHITE ..... Treasurer
A. C. SNYDER ..... Secretary
SAM'L C. BEARD ..... S. Deacon
JNO. DAVIS ARBUCKLE ..... J. Deacon
JNO. H. WETZEL, Jr. ..... Tiler

B. F. Jones
Joel McPherson
Carlos A. Sperry
Samuel H. Austin
J. M. McWhorter
Robt. F. Dennis
J. W. A. Ford
Joseph A. Feamster
Geo. H. Lewis
Henry A. Robinson
Jno. H. Arbuckle

P. S. E. Sixeas
James Knight
Lewis J. Nelson
Wm. F. McClung
Jas. C. McPherson
Samuel Stinson
L. S. Price
S. B. Mason
Geo. W. Henning
J. Coleman Alderson
Jno. W. Arbuckle

J. Crawford McPherson
Lewis Henley
Patrick McCleary
Jno. A. Knapp
F. M. Frazier
D. W. Ayers

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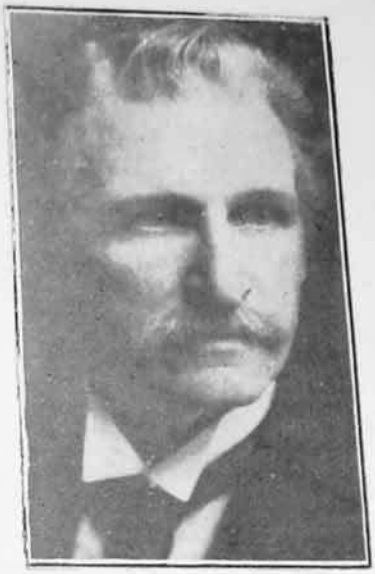
PAST MASTERS

John W. Harris
C. N. Austin
Jno. W. Arbuckle

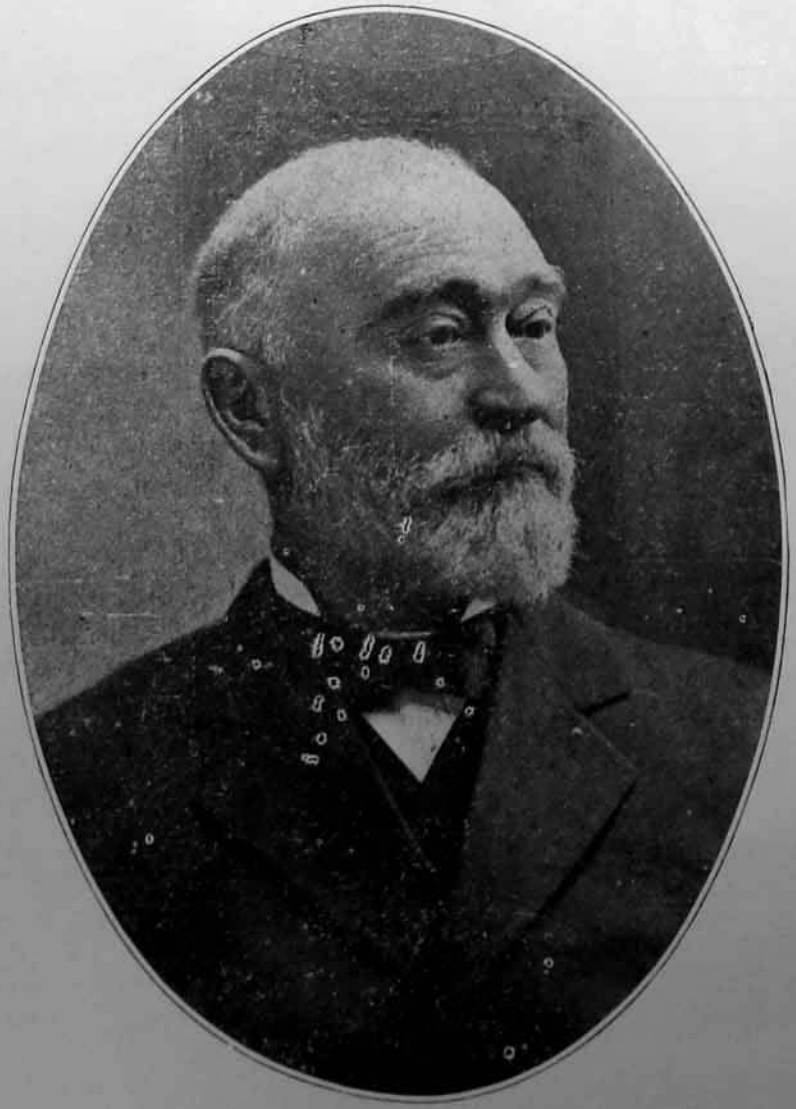
Maj. John W. Harris

J. Coleman Alderson

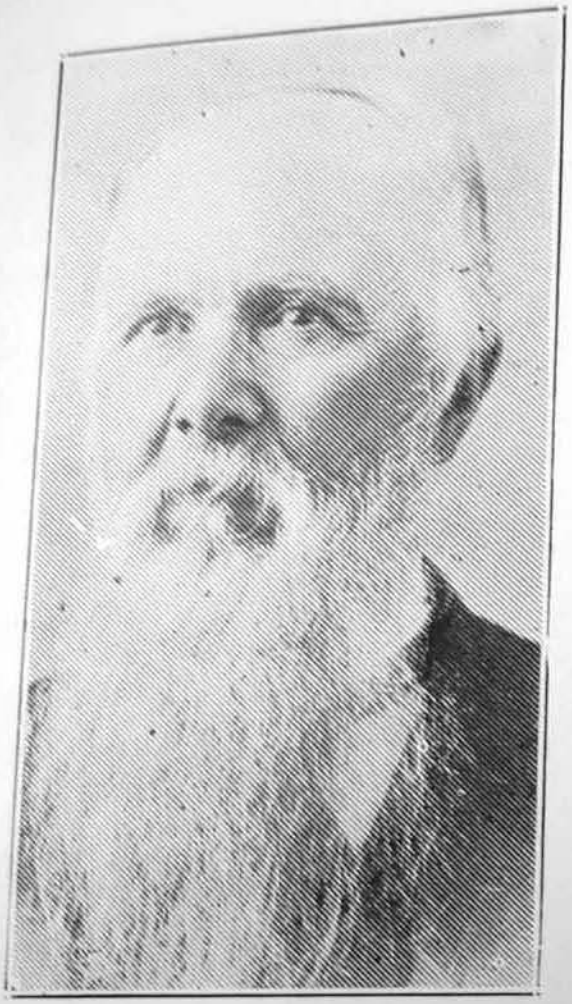
Jno. Davis Arbuckle



Jno. W. Arbuckle

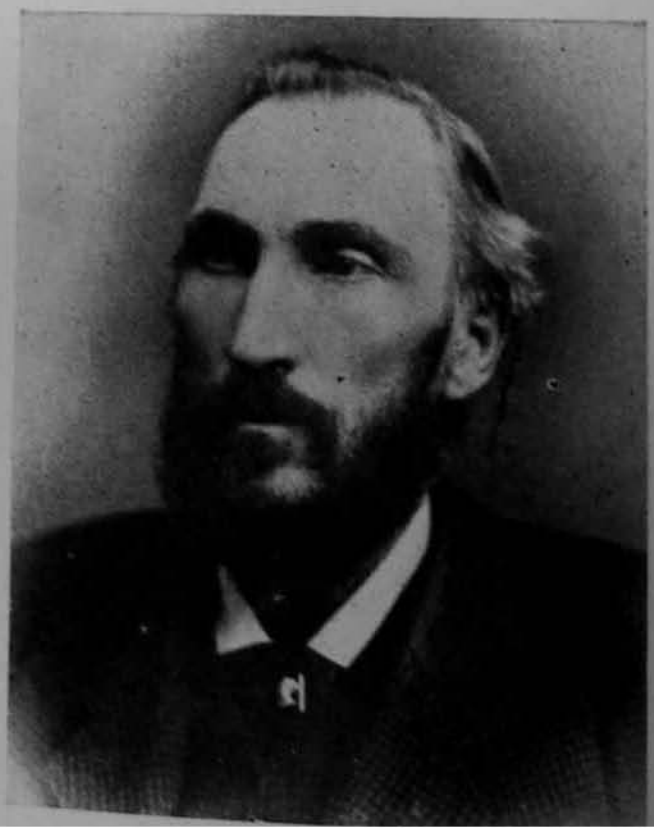


Capt. R. F. Dennis



Judge J. M. McWhorter, Sec.

Judge A. C. Snyder, Sec.

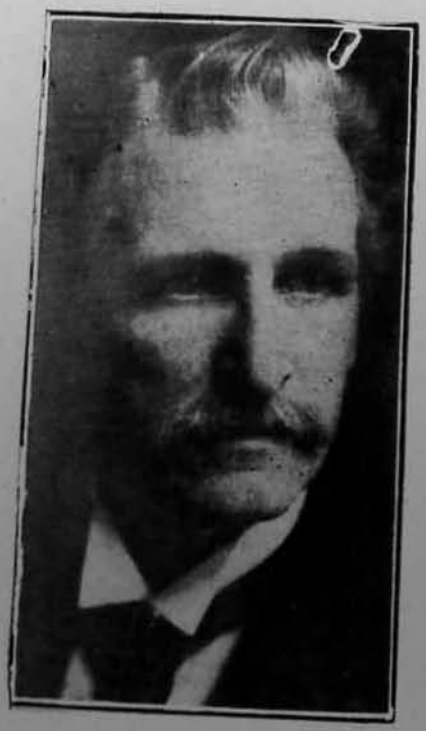


## FIRST OFFICERS OF GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 42—1878

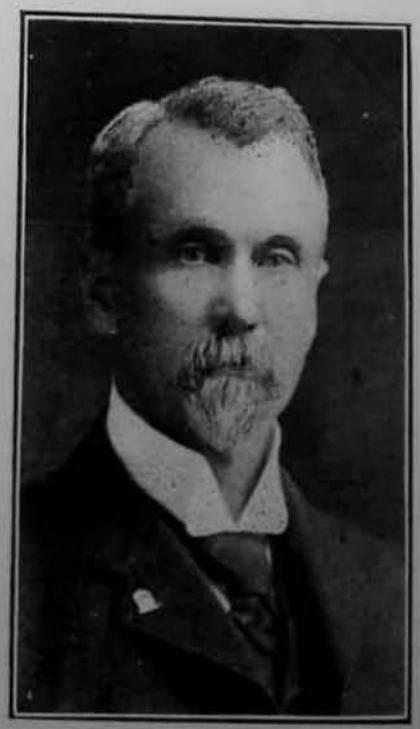
The first meeting of Greenbrier Lodge No. 42 was held in the Masonic Hall January 1st, 1878. Officers designated by the Grand Master—Joel McPherson, W. M., Jno. G. Cox, S. W., Jno. W. Arbuckle, J. W. Elected and appointed—James M. Cunningham, Treas., J. M. McWhorter, Sec., W. P. Foster, S. D., William Grow, J. D., James L. Nelson, Tiler.

Joel McPherson, W. M.

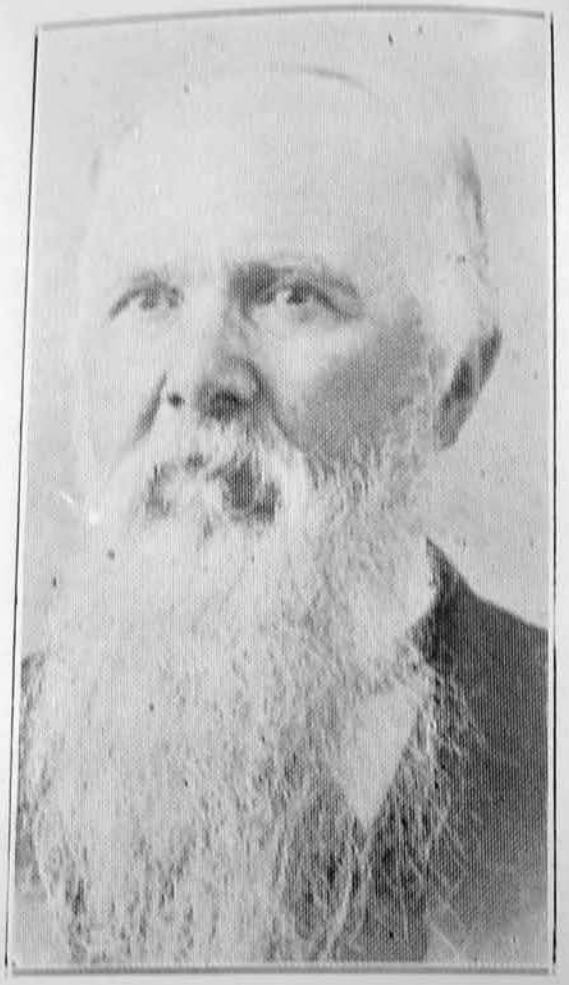
Jno. G. Cox, S. W.



Jno. W. Arbuckle, J. W.



Jas. M. Cunningham, Treas.



J. M. McWhorter, Sec.

W. P. Foster, S. D.

Wm. Grow, J. D.

James L. Nelson, Tiler

# PRESENT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 42 — 1939

J. WALTER DYCHE ..... W. Master
W. R. MATHENY ..... S. Warden
C. L. ALFORD ..... J. Warden
F. H. MAYS ..... Treasurer
S. W. McCORKLE ..... Secretary
EARL DARNELLE ..... S. Deacon
H. E. MARTIN ..... J. Deacon
LLOYD McF. COURTNEY, D. D. ..... Chaplain
J. V. DOTSON ..... Tiler

J. Walter Dyche, W. M.

W. R. Matheny, S. W.

C. L. Alford, J. W.

Earl Darnelle, S. D.

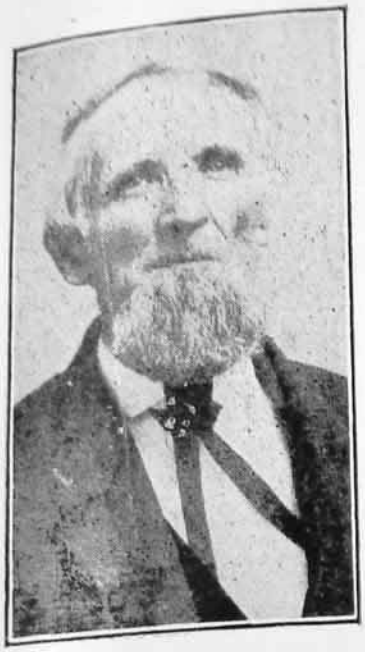
F. H. Mays, Treas.

S. W. McCorkle, Sec.

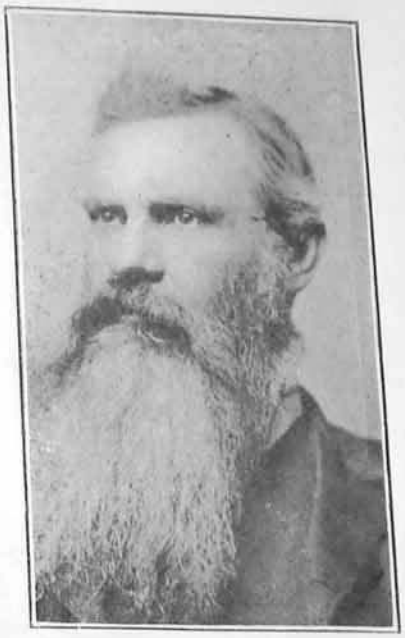
Lloyd McF. Courtney,
D. D., Chaplain

H. E. Martin, J. D.

# PAST MASTERS GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 42
1878-1939



Col. Joel McPherson



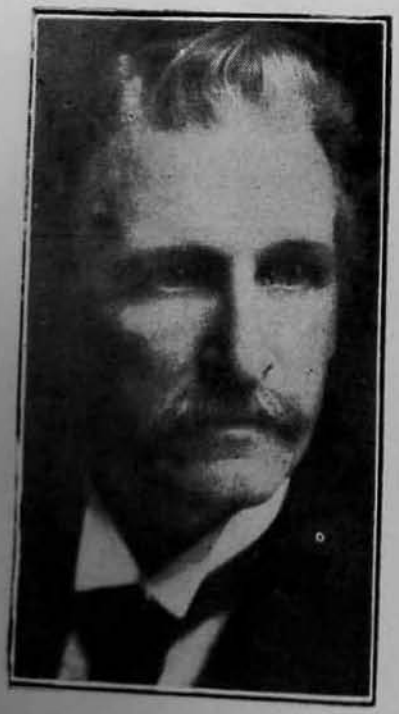
Dr. Sam'l H. Austin

Maj. John W. Harris

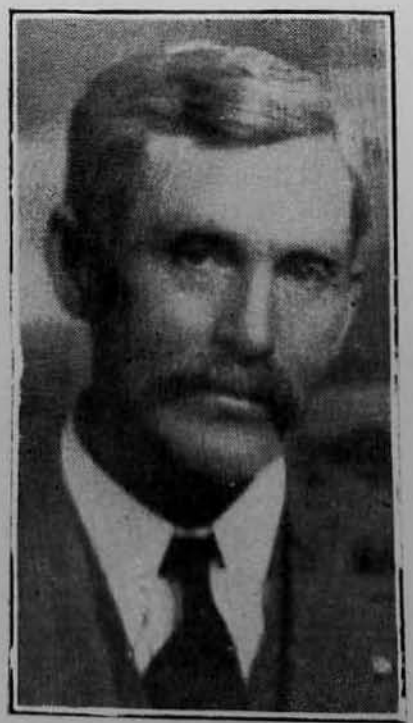
John G. Cox

Wm. P. Foster

W. E. Darnell
Oldest in Membership



Jno. W. Arbuckle,
Past Grand Master



E. W. Sydenstricker

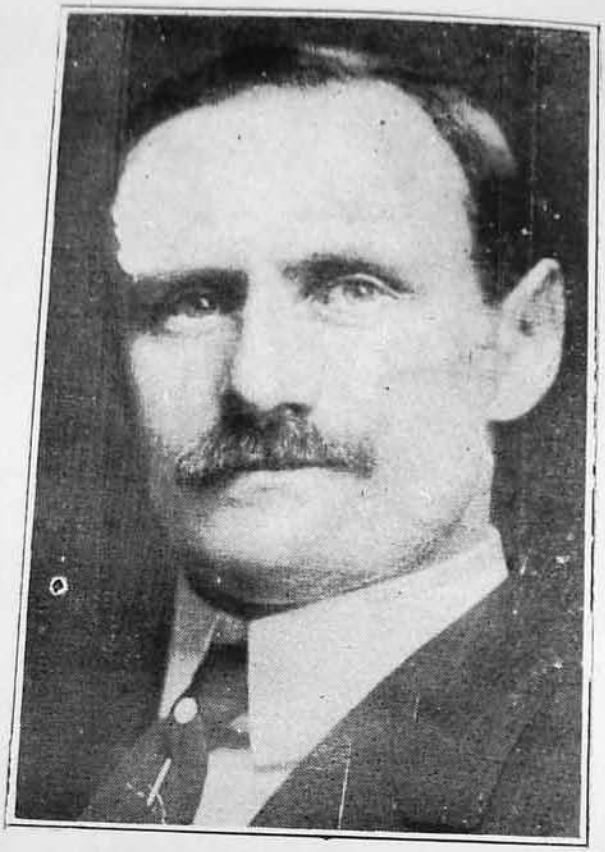
Mason Bell

R. E. L. Wood

H. L. Van Sickler

Sergt. C. C Conyers

R. P. Bell



W. E. Nelson

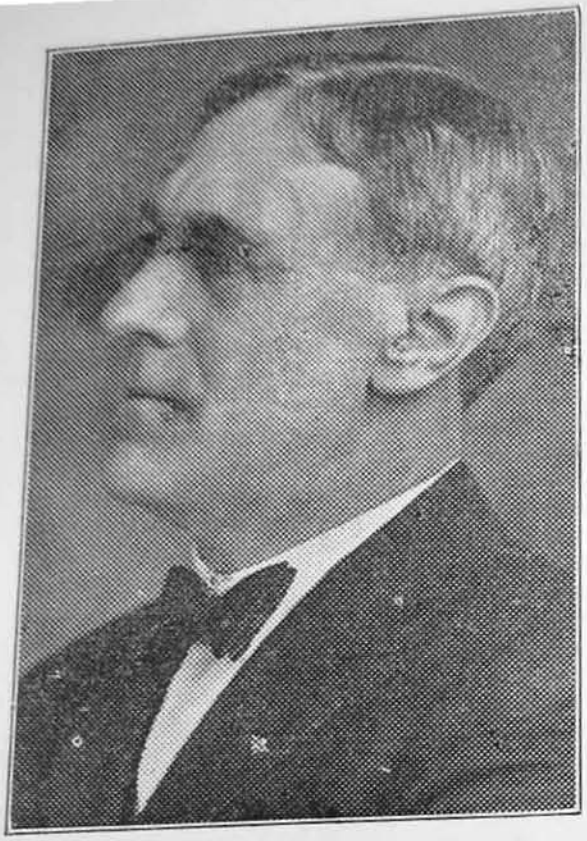
Jas. W. Stuart

J. V. Dotson

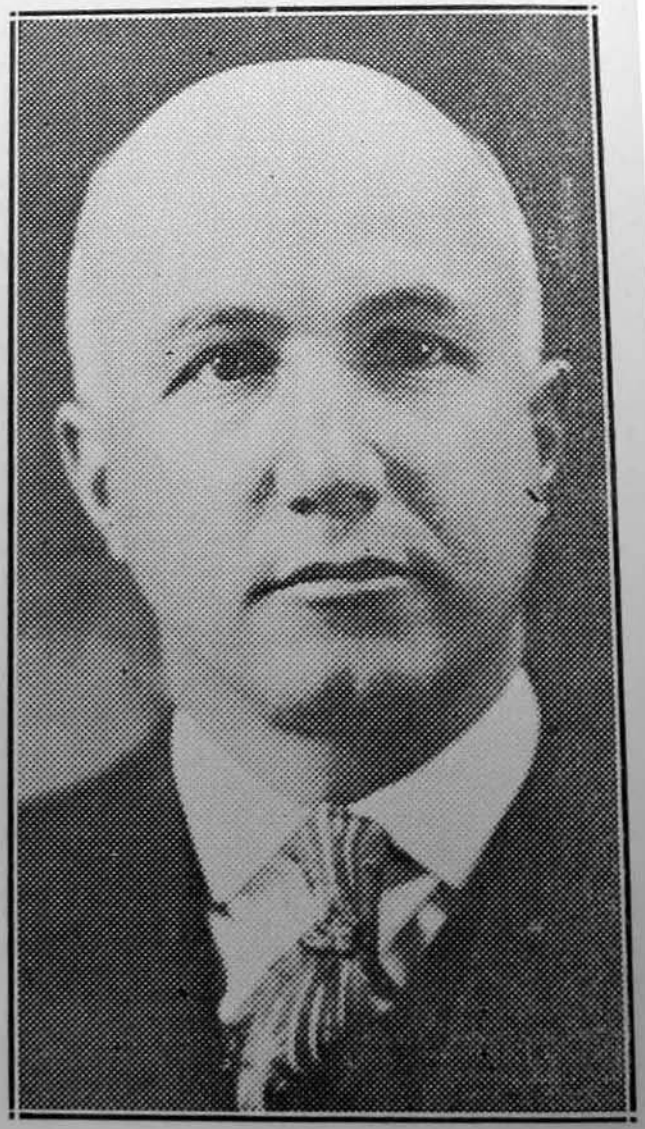
J. Walter Dyche

Jno. H. Sibold

H. B. Landers



Robert M. Bell



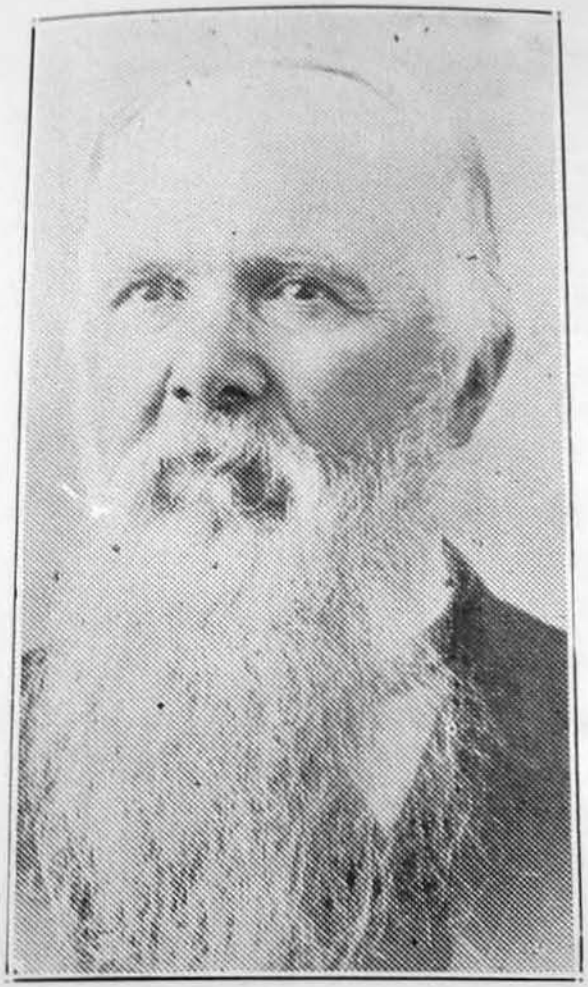
Charles N. McWhorter
33rd Degree Mason

James Cox

W. B. Crawford

H. L. Bowling

# PAST SECRETARIES



Judge J. M. McWhorter

J. E Bass

Paul C. Hogsett

# PAST TILERS

Wm. Grow

A. W. Kirkpatrick

Jas. L. Nelson

S. S. Tuckwiller

M. L. Legg

C. L. Alford

# MEMBERS

Alford, C. L.
Arbuckle, Alex
Arbuckle, N. S.
Austin, Saml. M.
Argabrite, W. G.
Alderson, Geo. P.
Baber, J. R.
Blau, C. J.
Ballard, Lester
Bennett, Clyde
Bartholomew, Don. P.
Boggs, W. P.
Benjamin, J. W.
Browne, Harry
Bransford, H. E.
Burns, Sullie E.
Bright, Raymond E.
Bright, Robert E.
Bowling, H. L.
Bowling. D. G.
Burdette, Frank
Bell, J. E.
Bell, Richard P.
Blackburn, Harry H.
Bell, Mason
Beard, S. C.
Boggs, J. C.
Bass, J. E.
Burns, L. W.
Brackman, Mason
Brown, H. A.
Brewster, Wm.
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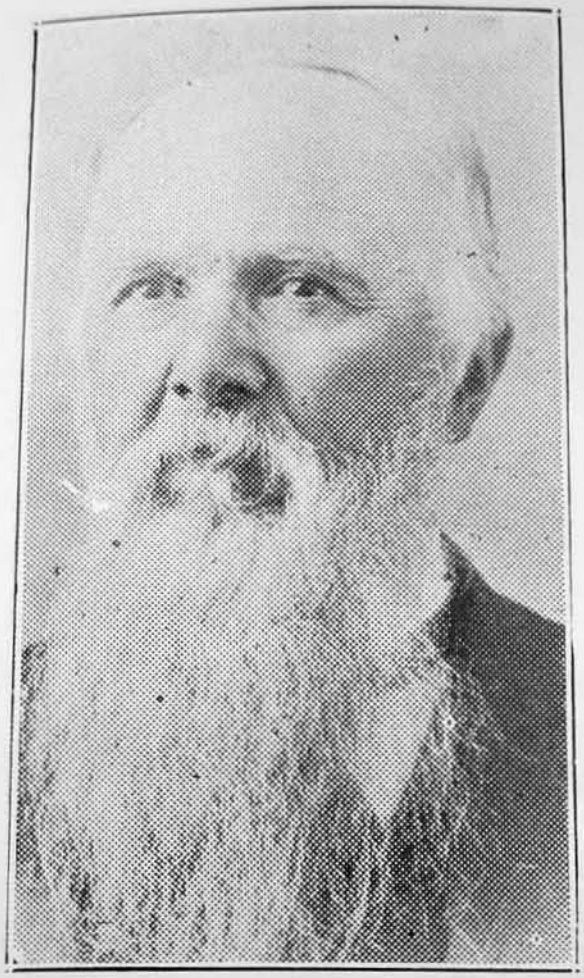
Campbell, D. D.
Coffman, O. B.
Campbell, F. H., Jr.
Cary, Frank
Clendenen, Harry
Compton, J. W.
Caldwell, Jas. R.
Campbell, F. H., Sr.
Coffman, C. S.
Crickenberger, E. H.
Cooper, H. S.
Conyers, C. C.
Catlett, M. C.
Clingman, Garland R.
Courtney, Lloyd McF.
Deaver, L. T.
Dotson, Jno. C.
Dotson, Jas. V.
Darnell, Wm. E.
Darnell, L. W.
Dyche, J. Walter
Dorsey, E. R
Darnell, Earl
Erwin, Jas. E.
Ethridge, Wm. E.
Echols, C. L.
Easley, G. G.
Finley, Paul L.
Ferrell, H. E
Ferrell, C. L.
Farrier, R. B.
Foster, W. W.
Ford, B. A.
Gaul, G. H.
Griffeth, J. H.
Gillilan, Guy
Gillilan, Henry
Gillilan, Chas. H.
Gillilan, Steel M.
Graybeal, L. L.
Graybeal, R. E.
Garrett, Robert T.
Huffman, W. E.
Holmes, John H.
Humes, T. D.
Hern, J. B.
Holliday, A. R.
Hull, Moody
Henry, T. W.
Higginbotham, O. D.
Handley, H. L.
Hume, E. M.
Holt, Homer A.
Hamrick, K. J.
Hartsook, Hubert A.
Hogsett, Paul C.
Hern, Jess L.
Hefner, L. H.
Hayes, Wm. E.
Hunter, J. S.
Hutcheson, J. W.
Hanna, E. G.
Hanna, M. P.
Hughes, W. O.
Hicks, J. D.
Holliday, C. R.
Jones, W. B.
Jasper, Wm. N.
Jeffries, T. A.
Jackson, C. A.
Johnson, Wm. H.
Kirkpatrick, T. L.
Kirkpatrick, Albert W.
Knapp, H. D.
Knapp, Mason
Knight, R. C.
Knight, W. E.
Kinsley, O. P.
Lithgow, D. E.
Loudermilk, David
Lancester, M. M.
Landers, H. B.
Livesay, W. G.
Laing, Jas.
Laing, J. B.
Livesay, Cecil
Livesay, Porter
Lynch, J. L.
Lipps, J. G.
Lipps, D. H.
Loudermilk, C. E.
Lightner, C. M.
Littlepage, E. W.
Legg, M. L.
Landers, Ralph L.
Livesay, Chas. L.
Martin, H. E.
Masters, Julian J.
Morgan, G. C.
Morgan, W. K.
Morgan, W. T.
Morton, W. M. G.
Marshall, E. M.
Marshall, C. B.
Matheny, W. R.
Mays, F. H.
Montgomery, G. B.
Meeks, R. C.
Murrell, H. A.
Martin, J. H.
McKeever, Ivan

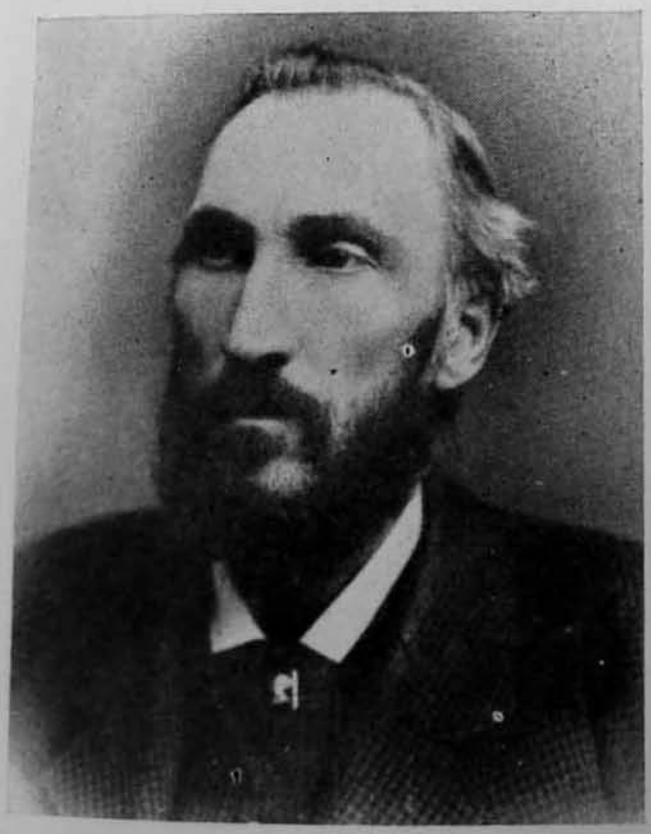
Stratton, Jno. H.
Scott, W. E.
Stout, D. M.
Sydenstricker, E. W.
Sydenstricker, J. B.
Squires, A. M.
Tuckwiller, Marvin
Thompson, French W.
Taylor, C. C.
Toothman, C. C.
Tuckwiller, R. H.
Tuckwiller, S. S.
Tuckwiller, E. A.
Tabscott, W. L.
Toothman, J. W.
Van Sickler, H. L.
White, Jas. H.
McCorkle, S. W.
McLaughlin, W. J.
McLaughlin, C. E.
McClung, A. K.
McClung, Fred
McWhorter. Chas. N.
McWhorter, J. Scott
McWhorter, Jos. R.
McClintic, C. F.
McClintic, Lawrence
McMillian, T. M.

Nelson, Wm
Noble, E. P.
Nickell, Don R.
Oliver, L. V.
Plunkett, Chas, Jr.
Peck, Frederick S.
Peck, Earl
Peebles, D. G.
Price, T. L.
Pare, T. H.
Preston, J. M.
Plunkett, Chas. A.
Parish, R. A.
Palmer, J. K.
Preston, D G.
Raredon, M. M.
Reynolds, Tom
Roberts, B. A.
Richmond, C. B.
Ratliff, W. G.
Rader, F. K.
Rapp, D. B.
Russell, Jas V.
Sebert, W. K.
Sidebottom, N. L.
Schaeffer, F. A.
Spradling, O. A.
Wm. Strealy

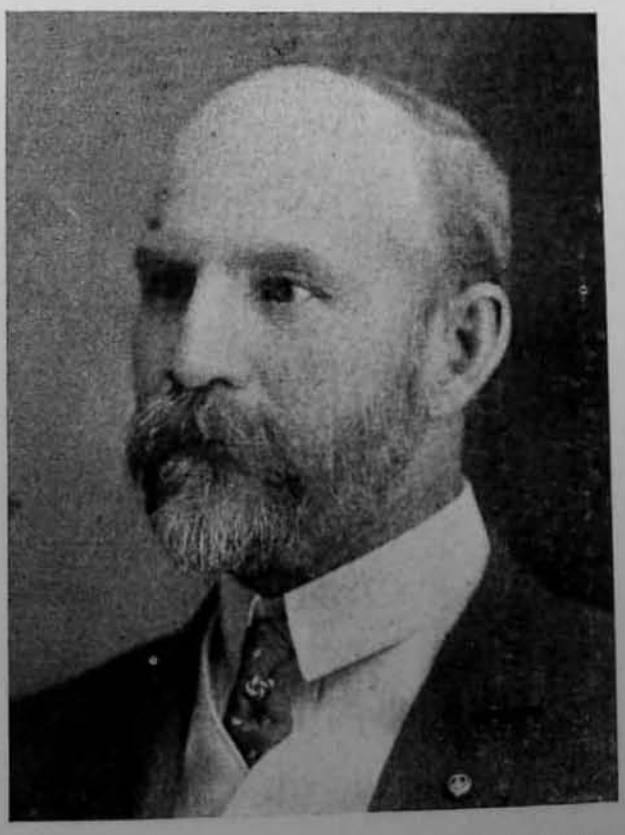
Street, W. D.
Snedegar, K. W.
Stratton, J. Marion
Smith, Harper M.
Skaggs, Handley
Stuart, Jas. W.
Sibold, John H.
Sampson, C. E.
Sampson, W. O.
Slaven, J. A.
Withrow, L. M.
Wolstenholm, Harry V.
Woods, L. A.
Wilson, F. T.
Wilson, H. B.
Wilson, J. W.
Wilson, C. V.
Wood, R. B.
Whiting, M. B.
Whiting, T. G.
West, E. A.
Watts, E. L.
Watts, Roland
Watkins, J. W.
Wolfe, E. E.
Yates, Geo.
Young, John
Yarid, Sam'l G.



JUDGE J. M. McWHORTER

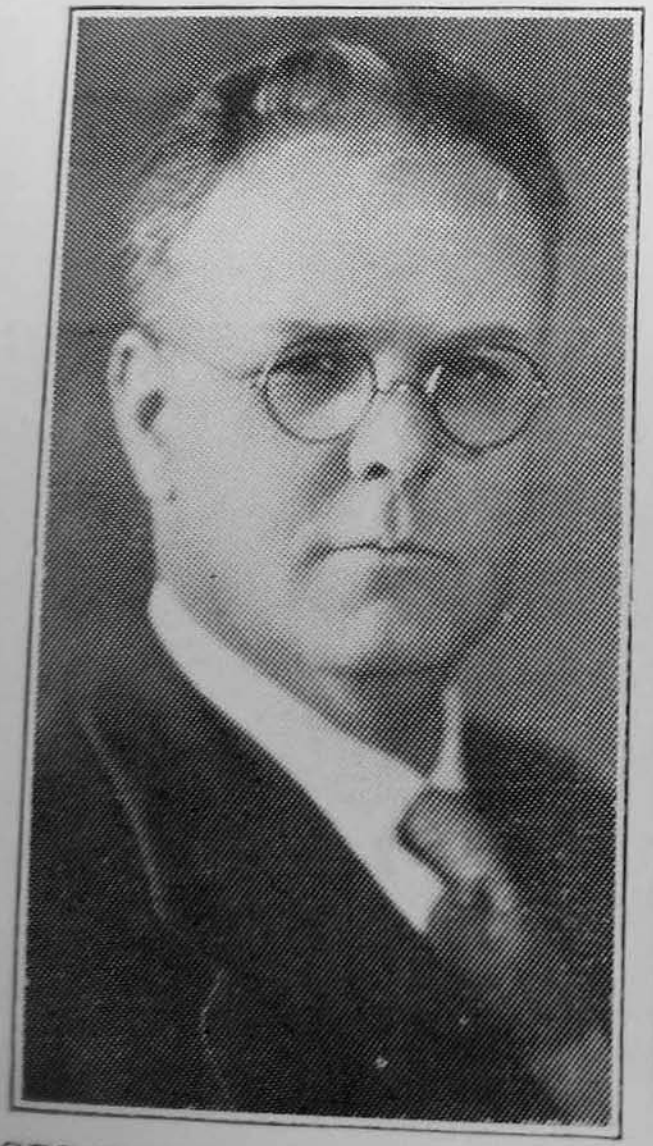


JUDGE A. C. SNYDER



JUDGE L. JUDSON WILLIAMS

HOMER A. HOLT
Governor of West Virginia



GEO. P. ALDERSON, U. S. Marshal

JOHN C. DICE

J. B. Sydenstricker

W. L. Tabscott

Dr. French W. Thompson

C. E. McLaughlin

Mayor W. W. Foster

Thos. H. Pare

Harper M. Smith

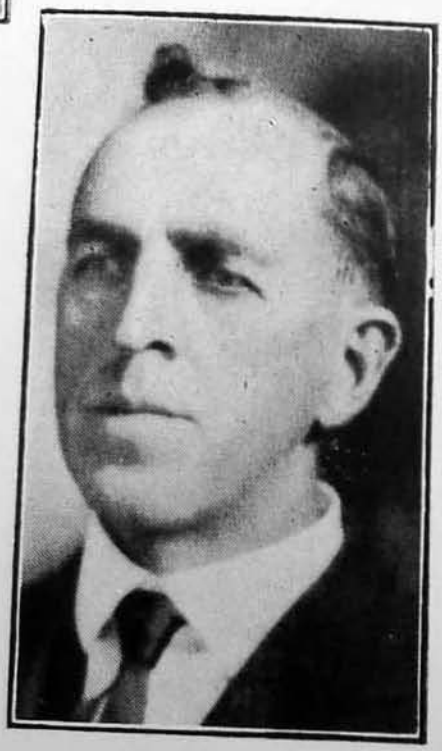
'Squire J. W. Hutcheson

Wm. E Hayes

T. A. Sydenstricker

Sam'l G. Yarid

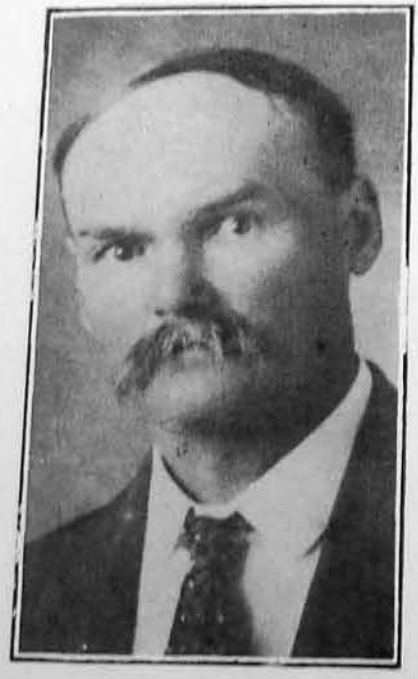
Theo. A. Jeffries



O. P. Kinsley

C. F. McClintic, M. D.

Capt. J. W. Benjamin

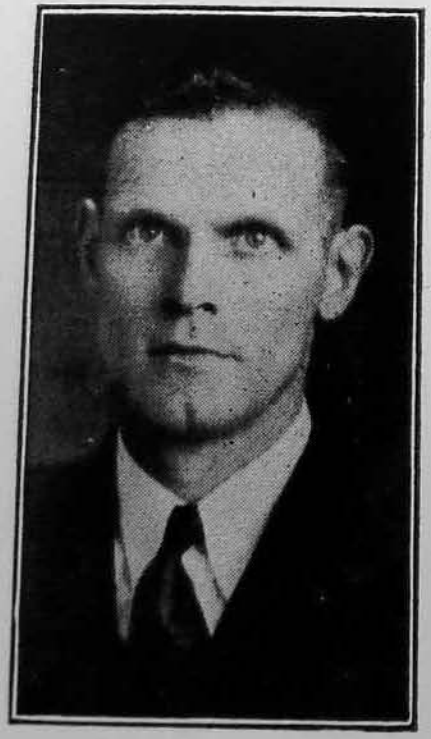


D. B. Rapp

Sergt. N. L. Sidebottom

Ralph L. Landers

Garland R. Clingman



W. M. G. Morton

"So let us meet upon the Level,
While laboring patient there—
Let us meet and let us labor,
Tho the labor seem severe.
Already in the western sky
The signs bid us prepare
To gather up our working tools
And part upon the Square!"

G

# Masonic Sketches

of

## GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 49

## FORT UNION LODGE NO. 42

and

## GREENBRIER LODGE NO. 42

In

## Lewisburg, W. Va.

## 1796-1939

Price 75c

# REPRINT

OF

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# M. W. GRAND LODGE

OF

## ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,

OF THE

## STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

FROM THE ORGANIZATION IN 1865 UNTIL AND INCLUDING THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION IN 1881.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE.

WHEELING:
LEWIS BAKER & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1882.

# INTRODUCTION.

In June, 1863, the State of West Virginia was formally recognized by the Government of the United States, as a separate and independent State.

For nearly three years previous to this event, all communication between most of the Subordinate Lodges in West Virginia and the Grand Lodge of Virginia had been suspended. During this time, many of these Lodges had ceased to work. The disturbed condition of affairs, growing out of the civil war, rendered it improper, and in some instances impossible for them to hold meetings. It became necessary in some cases to remove furniture, jewels, charters, &c. In some instances these were mislayed, lost or destroyed.

Gradually the tide of civil war was transferred to the extreme border; and large districts of the new State were restored to comparative tranquility. In these districts the brethren were anxious to resume their Masonic relations and labors. In several instances they found themselves unable to do so, without the aid of authority, to be obtained only from a Grand Lodge. The working Lodges themselves, began to realize very sensibly the want of the authority and discipline of such an organization.

Under the pressure of such circumstances, was discussed the organization of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia. Correspondence upon the subject was held with eminent brethren in other States. Their responses without exception, were in approval of the movement. It was encouraged, as eminently proper and necessary under the circumstances, and clearly in accordance with Masonic usage.

In response to a circular addressed by Fairmont Lodge No. 9, to the Lodges in West Virginia, a convention was held in Graf-

ton, on the 28th day of December, 1863. This convention met during a period of great excitement, occasioned by events of the war which prevented the attendance of delegates from some parts of the State. Although more than a constitutional number of Lodges were represented, it was thought best to adjourn the convention to meet in Fairmont, on the 22d day of February, 1864.

At the second convention, there was an increased attendance. A still larger representation of the working Lodges of the State was greatly desired, and it was again decided to postpone immediate organization. The convention adjourned to meet in Fairmont, on the 24th of June, 1864.

Pursuant to order of adjournment, the convention again assembled on the 24th of June. Eight working Lodges were represented. An election for Grand officers was held, and a day fixed for their installment. The convention then adjourned.

The Grand officers elect, before the time fixed for the installment had arrived, claimed that there was informality in the proceedings of the convention which elected them, rendering its action illegal. They therefore declined to be installed.

Fairmont Lodge No. 9, then addressed the following circular to the Subordinate Lodges throughout the State:

"At a semi-monthly communication of Fairmont Lodge No. 9, of Free and Accepted Masons, begun and held at their hall in Fairmont, on Monday evening the 5th of December, A. L. 5864, A. D. 1864.

Upon motion made and seconded, the following preamble and resolution were adopted, to-wit:

*Whereas*, This Lodge is informed by its Committee of Correspondence—Brother Boyd—that after he had procured a proper person to install the Grand Officers elect of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, he notified the G. M. and G. S. elect, of the time and place appointed for said installation, and requested the Grand Secretary to notify the Lodges within the bounds of said State to send proxies to the installation; and whereas the said Grand Master and Grand Secretary elect, have declined to act, from the fact, as they say, that the adjournment of the convention *sine die*, was irregular, and therefore the whole proceeding of the body was null and void. And whereas, this Lodge was the first to take action upon the organization of a Grand Lodge in West Virginia, and still believing that it is for the good of the Craft that a Grand Lodge be organized, therefore

*Resolved*, That Brothers F. J. Fleming, C. A. Swearingen and J. N. Boyd, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee, to draft a suitable address to all the working Lodges within the bounds of this State, and to such brethren late of the Lodges not

working, setting forth the necessity and propriety of organizing a Grand Lodge in West Virginia, and inviting and urging them to appoint delegates to a Convention to be held at Fairmont on the —— day of ———, 1865, and report to this Lodge at the earliest practicable time.

A Copy—Teste: C. A. SWEARINGEN, *Secretary.*

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BRETHREN:—In again inviting you to assemble in Convention for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge of the State of West Virginia, we feel that it is unnecessary for us to argue at length the *right* or *expediency* of Subordinate Lodges of this State to establish a Grand Lodge, as the very fact that we live under what is beyond all doubt a *de facto* State government, determines, according to the usages of the order, the legality of such a proceeding; and your own experience, since communication with the Grand Lodge of Virginia has been destroyed, must have convinced you of the necessity of a Grand Lodge.

We, therefore, respectfully and earnestly invite you to send regularly appointed delegates to a Convention to be held in Fairmont, on Wednesday evening, April 12th, 1865, for the purpose of electing the officers of a Grand Lodge. It is hoped that every working Lodge in the State will be represented. It is also hoped that brethren belonging to Lodges not active, will attend.

Brethren, please give the subject early attention in your Lodges, and let us meet and consummate the work before us, in the spirit of brotherly love and affection.

F. J. FLEMING, *W. M.*,
C. A. SWEARINGEN, *Sec'y.*
J. N. BOYD.

*Fairmont, February* 21*st*, 1865.

The recommendation of the committee coming before the Grand Lodge for action it was held that the case was not before the Grand Lodge in such shape as to permit the summary expulsions contemplated by the committee. No formal appeal from the action of Equality Lodge No. 44, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Trials adopted in this State, had been taken, and no opportunity had been afforded for defense. Accordingly the Grand Lodge, on motion, struck out the recommendation that Snodgrass be expelled, and substituted in it a resolution that the District Deputy Grand Master of the said Fourth Masonic District be instructed to take an appeal from the action of Equality Lodge No. 44 in acquitting J. Frank Snodgrass, and mature the same for action at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, in accordance with the provisions of the Code. This amendment having been made, the report was adopted.

### INDIAN CREEK AND GREENBRIER LODGES.

The special committee in relation to the petitions of Indian Creek Lodge No. 145 and Greenbrier Lodge No. 49, presented the following report, which, after slight amendment, was adopted in form as follows:

*To the M. W. Grand Lodge of West Virginia:*

Your committee to whom was referred the communication of Indian Creek Lodge No. 145 and Greenbrier Lodge No. 49, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, (now working under charters from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of West Virginia) asking to be admittted as members of this Grand Body by surrendering their present charters and accepting charters from this Grand Body, respectfully report:

That the M. W. Grand Lodges of Virginia and West Virginia in the year 1869, prompted by the fraternal feelings which characterize our order, and anxious to remove all obstacles to the rapid growth and prosperity of the same in our jurisdiction, amicably adjusted all subjects of dispute then existing, and earnestly recommended "all Subordinate Lodges in the territorial limits of West Virginia to surrender their present charters to, and ask new charters from the Grand Lodge of West Virginia."

Acting upon this recommendation all Lodges working under charters issued by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Virginia within the limits of West Virginia, have surrendered them, and accepted new ones from this Grand Body, except three, including the two herein mentioned.

The two cases submitted to your committee, are entirely distinct, and must necessarily be treated separately.

Your committee take great pleasure in endorsing the application of Indian Creek Lodge No. 145. and in extending to the brethren of that Lodge the earnest and fraternal welcome of the fraternity in this jurisdiction.

In this case we would recommend that the surrender of the charter of Indian Creek Lodge No. 145, granted by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Virginia, be accepted, and that the M. W. Grand Lodge of West Virginia issue a new charter to the brethren of said Lodge, as requested in their application returned with this report.

Your committee would further recommend (in answer to a question suggested by said Lodge) that Indian Creek Lodge No. 145 should pay to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Virginia its dues for the past fiscal year.

Your committee feel somewhat embarrassed as to the propeaction to be taken in response to the application of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49. The difficulty arises from the delicacy and yet frankness with which the subject should be treated, to avoid a misunderstanding of the earnest and fraternal feelings of this Grand Body to a Subordinate Lodge, within our jurisdiction, working under a charter from another Grand Body.

The application from Greenbrier Lodge, No. 49 to transfer its allegiance from the M. W. Grand Lodge of Virginia to this Grand Body is conditional, to-wit: "Provided that said Grand Lodge of West Virginia endorses our charter and recognizes us as Greenbrier Lodge, No. 49."

This proviso (much to the regret of your committee, and we believe of the fraternity throughout the jurisdiction) will necessarily prevent your Grand Body from accepting a surrender of the old charter and the issuing of a new one, at this Grand Communication, for the following reasons:

This Grand Body cannot legally endorse the present charter of said Lodge, neither can it issue a charter giving the number 49. Volcano Lodge, No. 49, chartered by this Grand Body, is unwilling to surrender the number of its Lodge, and your committee can see no right or propriety upon the part of this Grand Body to request or suggest to the brethren of Volcano Lodge to give up their charter number.

Your committee feel justified in making this recommendation to your Grand Body: To consent to the retention by Greenbrier Lodge of its number, and to issue a charter as requested in application of said Lodge, provided, Volcano Lodge No. 49, by an amicable arrangement between the two Lodges, freely and voluntarily consents to surrender its present charter number and accept another.

Should this not be done, however, we would earnestly suggest to our brethren of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49, to meet us in the spirit of the resolutions of the M. W. Grand Lodges of the two jurisdictions, so that another year may not pass and the present anomaly exist. We earnestly hope that if not at this Grand Communication, before the next is held, union and

harmony, both in spirit and work, may characterize all Subordinate Lodges within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Body. Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. J. FAULKNER, JR.,
W. H. H. FLICK,
J. W. ARBUCKLE.

EDUCATIONAL FUND.

Bro. T. H. Logan from the Committee on Disbursement of the Educational Fund reported verbally that no application for the benefit offered by the fund had been presented during the past year. He was persuaded that this was owing to a lack of publicity of the plan, and had no doubt that the advantage it offered would be readily embraced by deserving parties when it was well understood that the Grand Lodge stood ready to advance money on long time, without interest, to the sons or daughters of Masons for educational purposes.

THANKS.

The following resolution was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to the Capitol Committee of citizens of Wheeling for the use of the spacious and commodious hall in which the present Annual Communication is held; also to Mr. —— Shepherd, the contractor, and to Bro. J. S. Fairfax, the architect, for courtesies received at their hands.

JEWELS.

Bro. Hugh Sterling offered the following resolution, which was adopted, and Bros. Sterling, Long and Logan were appointed a committee in connection therewith:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to procure a set of Lapel Jewels for the use of this Grand Lodge—the cost of said jewels not to exceed $150.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were offered and severally concurred in by the Grand Lodge:

*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary be authorized to publish six hundred copies of the proceedings of this Grand Annual Communication, and to distribute them in accordance with existing order.

*Resolved*, That the Grand Treasurer be authorized to pay all accounts due or that may become due during recess for printing, postage, stationery and other necessary expenses of the Grand Lodge, including $100 to be paid upon the order of the Committee on Disbursement of the Educational Fund.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby tendered to the officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway for their generosity in carrying delegates to the Grand Lodge at half the usual fare; and also to the proprietors of such hotels in Wheeling as have entertained the members of the Grand Lodge at less than the usual rates of boarding.

No further business appearing, the Grand Lodge of West Virginia was closed in AMPLE FORM and with prayer by the Grand Chaplain, until Tuesday, November 13, A. L. 5877, A. D. 1877, or during the will and pleasure of the M. W. Grand Master.

G. W. ATKINSON,
*Grand Master.*

O. S. LONG,
*Grand Secretary.*

During the sitting of the Grand Lodge a telegram was received announcing that the venerable John Dove, for many years Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, was at the point of death. The deepest concern was manifested by all the brethren, and all seemed to feel a sort of filial affection for the beloved old man who was dying in a distant city. On the following day, the day after the Grand Lodge was closed, intelligence was received of his death Full of years and honors, Dr. John Dove has been called to rest, but the good influences of his blameless life, and the life-long service he rendered to the cause of Freemasonry, can never die. Free Masons in West Virginia, no less than those in the mother State, claim a part in the goodly heritage of his memory. GRAND SECRETARY.

## APPOINTMENTS BY THE GRAND MASTER.

### *District Deputy Grand Masters.*

1st District, R. W. Victor Rosenberg, Wheeling; 2d, Frank Burt, Mannington, 3d, J. C. Baker, Jr., Moorefield; 4th, W. F. Alexander, Duffields; 5th, Ocran Corbin, Ellenboro; 6th, W. H. Freeman, Clarksburg; 7th, John G. Lanning, Clifton; 9th, J. W. Harris, Lewisburg; 10th, M. S. Connell, Rocky Point; 11th, H. F. Bowen, Wayne C. H.

## APPOINTMENTS BY THE GRAND LECTURER.

### *Deputy Grand Lecturers.*

William H. Rose, Wheeling; D. F. Pugh, Middlebourne; D. B. Easley, Fayette C. H.; K. D. Walker, Fairmont.

Returns of membership in and work done by the following Lodges are published with the proceedings and occupy 48 printed pages: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 80, 91, 93, 117. Indian Creek 145, of Virginia; Bethany, Reedy and Alderson Lodges U. D.

The list of those who have died during the year embraces the following names:

Clark Sprout, Ohio Lodge No. 1, November 9, 1875; William

12-22-57

LEWISBURG (RNS) — The oldest Masonic Lodge west of the Alleghanies bestowed special honor on its 15 living past masters by giving past master rings to each.

The celebration was held at the regular meeting of the Greenbrier Lodge No. 42 A. F. and A. M. Monday. Oscar V. Bowling, past master of Alleghany Lodge No. 136, White Sulphur Springs, and past potenate of Beni-Kedem, Charleston, made the presentations.

Those receiving Past Master Rings Monday were John H. Sibold, Chester C. Conyers, Richard P. Bell, Thomas W. Henry, Harry B. Landers, W. Grey Livesay, W. Earl Darnell, H. Earle Bransford, Lee K. Bell, Ray G. Quick, S. Paul Powell, George R. Hanna, K. Orville Fulwider, and Keith A. Dunlap. A ring also was presented to William E. Darnell, who is the oldest living member of Greenbrier Lodge. Darnell has been a member of Greenbrier Lodge for 61 years. He was unable to attend the special meeting, and presentation was made at his home.

The lodge, formed in 1796, through petition to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, held its first meetings in the store of James W. Mathews, Lewisburg. The original petitioners came from a radius of 25 miles of Lewisburg.

Capt. Alexander Welch and Dennis McLaughlin carried the petition for the formation of a lodge to Richmond, Va., in the fall of 1796. The charter was granted Dec. 5, 1796, and the first meeting was held April 1, 1797, with James W. Mathews, John Mathews, and John Brown designated as officers. The lodge at that time was known as Greenbrier Lodge No. 49.

History records say the Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 functioned continuously for a period of 82 years, or until Fort Union Lodge No. 42 A. F. and A. M. united with it in 1878.

The formation of the new State of West Virginia, and the subsequent formation of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia in 1863, together with other contributing factors led to the formation of the Fort Union Lodge No. 21 in 1868.

The applicaion was signed by Maj. John W. Harris, Dr. C. N. Austin, A. C. Snyder, Robert F. Dennis, and others.

The officers were: C. N. Austin, F. C. Burdette, W. B. White, A. C. Snyder, F. C. Burdette, W. B. White, A. C. Snyder, S. C. Beard, John Davis Arbuckle, and John H. Wetzel.

This lodge was in operation for 10 years until it consolidated with Greenbrier Lodge No. 49, and became known as Greenbrier Lodge No. 42, using the title of one, and the number of the other.

In the early days the lodge held its meetings in private homes, generally in the large dining room in the brick house, now torn down, of Patrick Beirne, North Lee St. In 1852, the trustees of Greenbrier Lodge No. 49 bought the "Old Stone Lodge" property from C. M. Weir, Thomas and Mason Mathews, West Washington St. Then in 1869 the Lodge sold this property to the Board of Education to be used for a schoolhouse.

In 1868 they purchased from H. H. Harrison, Andrew Beirne, and B. C. Caldwell the brick building on West Washington St., which presently houses the Greenbrier County Library and Museum.

For many years this was known as the Masonic Hall, which originally had been built to house the Supreme Court of Virginia library, offices, and place of holding court in Greenbrier County. The original charter granted to the Lodge is in the museum.

The Lodge held its meetings here until 1917, when it sold the property to E. W. Sydenstricker, for a library and museum.

The Lodge then held its meetings over the Lewisburg Drug store, and in 1926 moved to the present home in the Masonic Temple on Court St., where Monday's meeting took place.